

Our founding fathers repeatedly emphasized the importance of a free and independent press. We need a multitude of media outlets to ensure that all voices are heard. An organization like Sinclair Broadcasting, which plans to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election, is a clear example of how media consolidation imperils the public interest. When a local station cannot make its own journalistic decisions based on journalistic merit, but must instead air political propaganda at corporate behest, the public interest is most clearly not being served.

And the public interest is what Sinclair, by law, is obligated to serve. They use our public airwaves free of charge, extracting considerable profit from a public good, and must honor their public commitments to receive this bounty. Sinclair has repeatedly demonstrated that they are more concerned with blanketing their markets with a political ideology than reporting real and accurate news so that our citizens can make informed decisions about the issues our society confronts. In so doing, their disregard for the public good has been flagrant.

I strongly object to Sinclair's abuse of the public interest.